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HON. EDITOR: W. B. STEVENSON

Hornsey Public Libraries

Council Notes

THE A.A.L. Council met on 29th March, the President (Mr. J. T. Gillett) in the chair.

The following resolution was forwarded to the Library Association Emergency Committee:—"That in the opinion of this Council, all necessary steps should be taken to reconstitute the Library Association Council on a pre-war basis, and an election should be held during the present year."

The main business of the Council was concerned with the approval of the Annual Report, and the approval and amendment of the report of the Sub-committee set up to consider the Library Association memorandum on future professional training. The Annual Report will be found on pages 30 and 31 of this issue. The following is the Subcommittee's memorandum approved by the Council for presentation to the Library Association:—

1. General.—The Library Association proposals are designed to substitute training in full-time library schools for the existing system of spare-time study outside working hours. No provision is, in fact, made for any other form of training, except for ex-Service personnel in the immediate post-war years. Whilst accepting the view that the major part of training should be carried out at library schools, the A.A.L. Council does not agree with the method proposed, nor does it consider that library schools should entirely supersede qualification by private study.

2. Library Schools.—The proposal that students should enter library schools after one year's service in a library is considered quite impracticable. Very few local authorities would be prepared to give the necessary leave of absence, or to make grants to enable their staffs to attend the schools. Even if grants from local authorities are conceded it is thought that they may have an undesirable influence on salaries and freedom of movement. Moreover, it is contended that a one-year course would be quite inadequate to cover the syllabus for the Registration Examination; a period of about two years would be required, which would obviously make the proposal still more impracticable. It is recommended therefore that, as in the U.S.A., all full-time

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library school training should be completed before entry into the profession. It is also recommended that two types of schools be provided :—

Universities.—These would offer degree courses in librarianship, the examinations to be conducted by the Universities, since it is unthinkable that any university would allow its students to be examined by an outside body like the Library Association. Higher Education authorities should be asked to make grants to enable suitable students to proceed to Universities for such courses.

Colleges and Schools.—Special course in librarianship to be provided at selected colleges, technical and other schools which would offer (a) courses for external degrees in librarianship ; and (b) courses for examinations to be conducted by the Library Association. These courses would be both full-time and part-time. A great opportunity will be missed if the readiness to offer training in librarianship shown by a number of such schools and colleges in recent years is not developed and organised on a proper basis. They would enable students from all fairly large towns and their surrounding districts to obtain training at the least expense, thus ensuring that few suitable persons would be debarred from qualifying for financial reasons.

Our proposals for the retention and extension of part-time training facilities reject the contention that full-time training in residential library schools is essential. We feel that the emphasis on the need for training in residential schools is exaggerated. Few can doubt that collegiate education is, in its widest sense, the highest form of education. But is it necessary for vocational training? We think not. We would rather agree with Sir Richard Livingstone who has advocated courses of general education training in residential colleges for senior civil servants and municipal officers. We think that the main problem of library staffing is to secure the right type of entrant to the service, young men and women whose education has given them a real cultural background ; many more should be drawn from the Universities where they will already have had the advantages of collegiate education.

3. Correspondence Courses.—In the long run, the only standard by which a person's knowledge can be measured is his ability to pass an examination. If a student is capable of doing this without attending a library school, why debar him from doing so? Correspondence courses have their defects, and because of them, tuition through library schools, if there are enough, will become the most general system. But will there be enough to cover the whole country without causing undue hardship and expense to students in the more sparsely populated areas? We doubt it. Moreover, correspondence courses are an essential feature of training in many of the professions (e.g. accountancy, banking, insurance, etc.). We therefore recommend that they should be retained.

4. The Syllabus.—Our proposal that full time library school training should be completed before entry into the profession will make the proposed Entrance Examination unnecessary. We feel that there should be no age or time limits for either the Registration or Final Examination, but registration as an Associate or Fellow should not take place until at least 3 and 5 years' experience, respectively, have been obtained. We are opposed to the use of the term "Chartered Librarian."

5. Ex-Service Personnel.—Priority should be given to the needs of ex-Service personnel. These should be given the option of taking training at once or 6 months after demobilisation. If training is to be in library schools, these should be organised now. Such facilities should also be available to other personnel seconded or directed into other forms of national service.

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Pastry-Making

J. F. W. Bryon

"THERE are three arts—music, painting and pastry-making, of which architecture is a sub-division." (Chesterton).

I can remember my puzzlement as a boy over the fact that whereas meat-pie was by ritual adorned with rose and leaves in pastry, fruit pie-crust came to the table undecorated. A similar wonderment fills me to-day as I see the relative decoration assigned to public buildings. Why Public Libraries should be considered fit subjects for applied mouldings, pillars, relief-work, cupolas, arches, and the bricabrac of a dozen styles and periods, while other offices go Scott free, is more than I can understand.

And the interiors of these public cultural sepulchres are as inconsequential as their overloaded exteriors. The ponderous effusions of our grandparents in their attempts at the representation of definiteness and noble purpose, the contemporary reader often finds depressing, repressive and oppressive, but never, as was intended, impressive.

If the atmosphere of the library is repellent, what must the effect on the non-reader be? Untouched by the books which might affect his judgment, he is given no chance to appreciate the best. There is no reason why the L.P.T.B. should stand alone among public bodies, a prophet in the wilderness of execrable taste. Aesthetics can not be taught nor imposed by a cultured few. The movement must grow from experience from below, and therefore it is important that all men everywhere should know and be influenced by good designs.

As we step in that direction I suggest that librarians unite in forming a standard of good architecture for their buildings. We must learn to regard libraries not merely as temples dedicated to culture. Too frequently they become shrines, which are comparatively unproductive things. But the library building should be the frame in which we operate, and capable of extensive or interior adjustment to allow for development or reorganisation. But extension is nearly impossible with a brick building and wall partitions militate against adjustment. Let us reconsider our attitude toward our profession, and let our new insight be manifest in the buildings we erect. A Library is not something created, but developed: there is no finality in it. The building is the skin in which the service grows and should accommodate itself to that growth. Many libraries have been stunted by the shortsightedness of designs of Carnegie mausoleums, and many buildings now considered adequate will be ill-equipped to face demands made ten years hence. We should not anticipate the monumental mason.

Two radical improvements are called for in library architecture—in design and in adaptability. In the first instance it will be necessary to eliminate the superficial. What is additional is mainly redundant. With our architecture, as with our culture, we should have the substance beautiful, in planning, in ideas should not be cramped by an obsession for symmetry. An organic structure, with its plan based on the needs and convenience of service, may not be curbed to fit a static, formal arrangement of walls and supporting pillars. A free plan allows a free service. A mechanical plan predicates a restricted service.

The library building will be an admission and a proclamation of its content, function and purpose, increasing the citizen's amenities, the beauty of his surroundings and the dignity of the community, while symbolising the communal consciousness of its builders, whether it be live, or whether it be dead, in a way that our municipal shopping among

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the styles makes impossible. We have achieved an aesthetic formation in which "the plan has become a piece of paper on which black marks for walls and lines for axes play at a sort of mosaic on a decorative panel making graphic representations of star patterns, creating an optical illusion" (Le Corbusier). "This aesthetic fame of geometric composition is continued in designing the facades. The surface is divided into regular sections by a number of axes following each other at equal intervals, and it is then decorated with architectural details of style forms accepted in ready-made shape, and without any structural significance" (Behrendt).

The alternatives? To decide on proportionate provision—the needs of each section of the library service, to best means of serving them and their relative importance, and to relate those means to a building or buildings which shall accord fully with the end in view. The main public rooms are generally accepted as essentials. But newspaper rooms might well be replaced by study carrels (even in small town libraries), discussion and club rooms, and adequate rest and recreation rooms for the staff.

As funds stand at present, I am inclined to the view that the unbroken sweep of wall shelving continuing right round the lending department is the best form, but with more adequate book funds, as a believer in specialisation, I favour alcoves. The quiet seclusion and intimacy of mediaeval carrels can best be replaced, reproduced and supplemented by their means. More particularly does this apply in the Reference Department, and where a separate room for reference books is not practicable, then shelving should be used to secure the maximum seclusion compatible with good lighting by the separation of a portion of floor space for this purpose, and the consequent forming of a natural screen.

The ultimate aim is the departmentalisation achieved in America, with its supplementary provision of browsing round, music rooms and the like, the whole far beyond our present finances, but essential to complete service with the larger libraries.

But beyond all this, uniformity of provision with a measure of standardisation of design, furniture and equipment are a consideration, and the only means to this end is a central authority which would act in an advisory capacity in all constructions. The obtaining of a simple uniformity of style, akin to that attained in London's Underground Stations, with a common emblem as motif, would have good publicity value, for repetition, if it doesn't make truth, can still drive home a point by means of underlining and insistence; and the frequent appearance of a familiar symbol will associate it in the reader's eye with the functions we purport to maintain.

Standardisation of furniture and equipment will not only make cheaper their production, but will also familiarise their purpose and use in the minds of readers, and facilitate the work of assistants, for it is assumed that the standard accepted will be regulated by experts' observation of need in action. Standardisation of rules, regulations, printed cards, fines, overdue notices, labels, tickets, pockets and their printing will also facilitate administration, and make readers aware of the thought and care which are placed at their disposal, to further our common aim in bookdom.

Many of the older generation have a deep-rooted objection to standardisation. They see in it dull rejuvenation, bleak and rigid inflexibility. But in the ways I have instanced, it may be used as a means to free creative energy which would otherwise be sidetracked into many different channels. London Transport stations would have little of the charm which they now exercise if each had been designed by a differently whimsied architect. In possessing something in common, they present a familiar, united front, a unity which is akin to that shared by City Librarians and County deposit stations with the British Museum.

Valuations

M. L. Jackson

ONE of the most interesting periodicals to come my way recently is the January to June "Libraries in India" number of *The Modern Librarian*, published by the Punjab Library Association. This contains some engrossing accounts of the progress of libraries in India, including a report of the Punjab Library conference held in April, 1943. At this conference a most important resolution was passed urging the Punjab Government to "give library movement an integral part in any post-war reconstruction programme." Also, it was decided to request the Corporation of Lahore to open a central children's library in that city. The report on the library service in the province of Baroda shows that 46 district and town libraries have been set up in that area, and that 36.1 per cent. of the population over 7 years are now literate. The extent of the achievement is realised by reading an article by Mr. Bernard Palmer (one-time Deputy Librarian of Acton, and now in India), in which he explains that the problem of illiteracy is the greatest stumbling block, and one which can be most favourably tackled by the methods used in Soviet Russia. This issue of *The Modern Librarian* contains the beginning of an informative quick reference list to the libraries in India, and a list of 60 books on India with good, independent reviews and comments.

Nearer home, the year ending March-October, 1943, was a hard, busy year for all libraries, and library reports tell the same story of large issues, inadequate staffs and a poor supply of books. For those whose interest is most provoked by figures, Aberdeen's issue for the year 1942-1943 was 854,658, on a book stock of 161,861, and Luton's issue for the same year was 865,044 on a bookstock of 72,212. Cardiff's issue of 2,348,908 was a record one, as were Portsmouth's 1,483,731, and an issue of 4,300,643 at Leeds. At Beddington and Wallington, the total issue of 354,516 has been a great strain on a much depleted staff, and at Whitley and Monkseaton where the bookstock is only 17,194, the issue for the year ending March, 1943, was 300,962.

In the annual report from Hackney, it is pointed out that the library service in the area supplies for 10s. a year an almost unlimited amount of books to a ratepayer and his family. Portsmouth's report begins by justifying its existence as a faithful account of work carried out, and gives good account of a series of concerts sponsored by the Libraries Music and Arts Sub-Committee in conjunction with C.E.M.A. The background to the concerts was provided by the Portsmouth Division of H.M. Royal Marines. The setting-up of a joint committee, as at Portsmouth, which is concerned with literature, music and art, is a very desirable aim for a town of any size. At Cardiff, the commercial and technical libraries have been combined and housed at the Central Library, and gifts amounting to 770 books and many prints have been made to the Cardiff Libraries. When so much standard stock cannot be replaced, the gift of part of a private library is often a godsend to the public library.

Luton reports the "overwhelming fashion of two subjects in new non-fiction publications, to the exclusion of other subjects." This just criticism concerns books about experiences, strategy, and events in the present war, and books on post-war construction. It is pointed out that comparatively little is published on science, travel, art, or history, and meanwhile the borrower who is interested in gardening, photography, technics, etc., goes placidly on his way reading the things he always read. "The book stalls are flooded with popular trash" is the sort of condemnation which

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is constantly appearing from the pen of the librarian who is faced with famine in standard fiction and worth-while children's books.

Lecture halls and any suitable display rooms in libraries are being fully used. Bristol has a fine programme of public lectures and the brochure gives under the title of each lecture a brief list of about half a dozen good books on the lecturer's topic. Leicester had a programme of some interesting Ministry of Information films (with select reading lists) and Islington's Art Circle held a well-supported Autumn Exhibition. At East Finchley in January last there was an exhibition of drawings by Edward Lear.

The Children's Book Week at Fulham seems to have been a success. Handy, cheerful programme slips, a different colour for each day, gave the arrangements for that day, and listed some first-rate junior books on the subjects of the various lectures. St. Pancras has issued a programme of children's lectures in which the speakers include Bernard Newman, Day Lewis and L. A. G. Strong. Lantern slides are shown in the lectures which need them and booklists are provided at each lecture. Since the lectures are at 2.30 p.m., I suppose arrangements were made through the local education authority for the sending of audiences of school children.

Among the booklists on special topics and subjects, there is the second supplement to the Catalogue of music, and literature related to music in the Edward Stocks Massey Music Library, Burnley Public Library. In the introduction to the catalogue, this aim is voiced:—"In the development of this library, the Committee have kept before them a high standard commensurate with utility . . . with its extension, for the sake of comprehensiveness, and to provide for other tastes, an increasing number of lighter, less pretentious, yet competent types of music have been included . . ." Now this "less pretentious" touch irritates in the same way as this Croydon indulgent nudge:—"There are a few assertive readers who are only at home in the rarefied realms of Proust and Joyce, etc." Is the thriller reader less "assertive"? And is the lover of the Warsaw concerto less pretentious than the lover of "Matthis der Mahler"? (One whose knowledge of music is greater than mine has pointed out that the latter is missing from the Burnley list, also the "Pastoral Symphony" by Vaughan Williams, Walton's symphony, and all Sibelius scores published 1932-42; and no work is included by Benjamin Britten, Ethel Smyth, Aaron Copland and Lennox Berkeley.)

The Burnley list, arranged on the dictionary principle, is very thorough; my eye lingers fondly over the title sequence of songs:—"She that I love—she wandered down the mountain side—she was a good girl then." There seems no reason why books on ballet and the technique of ballet dancing should be included. The entry for *Carols* gives Bach, "Jesu, joy of man's desiring," and the "Oxford Book of Carols." I don't see why one Bach chorale should be isolated here. The printing errors are not many in so large a list, but there are a few like Henry Pudcell, and "How sleep the brace."

Bristol's booklist *Famous men and women* was published by the co-operation of the Bristol Youth Committee, a very sound arrangement. This "select list of interesting books for young readers" is an excellent one, produced with care and wisdom. I miss one or two treasures like Trevelyan's *Garibaldi and the making of Italy* and *Garibaldi and the thousand*. This "for young readers" problem is a real one. The reasonable thing is to encourage the young to read widely, but an adult attempting to select for a Youth Club is undecided in the face of two or three biographies of the same person. There is a wide difference in the scope of Bigland, Campbell and Criss on *Mary Queen of Scots*. The last of these is young in approach, and does not cover the life beyond Mary's leaving France. Biographies like Tong's *Chiang-Kai-Shek*, Plomer's *Rhodes* and Gibbon's *Autobiography* are much more adult than Tickner's

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Wellington and Gray's *Young Walter Scott*. This list will be very valuable to youth organisations, and I hope more will come from Bristol.

Cardiff's list on *The U.S.S.R. in peace and war* gives a good list of novels translated from the Russian. *Social security and the Beveridge report* is another thorough piece of work covering all social services. Cardiff Library and the Cardiff Technical College have combined to produce a very full and useful list of Books on Commerce, senior and advanced. The list covers economics, geography and history, English language and literature, and French and German, and should be invaluable to students.

The Research bulletin No. 8 on Foundry Practice from Sheffield has been revised. This bulletin is compiled for the Foundry Society of Sheffield Trades Technical Societies, and includes periodicals, abstracts and specifications. There is great value in the notes which give the scope and importance of a particular book, noting that certain of the older books have not become out-of-date and superseded. Luton's list on Aeronautics for the A.T.C., etc., is another valuable list, well printed and indexed and intelligently annotated.

From the Nottingham Central Library comes the booklist of the Nottingham and District Scientific and Technical Societies' Library. This list baffles me. The imprint is 1943, but many of the books seem to be ancient monuments. Does it aim to demonstrate to the various Societies that their book stock needs bringing up-to-date? Admittedly, works like Russell's *Treatise on the theory of alternating currents* (1914-16) have not been revised, but some of the books listed have been revised more than once, and some have gone out of print and been superseded. Russell's *Commercial advertising*, 1919, has lost much of its use. In the section on *Building*, Blake's *Damp walls* (1923) and Mitchell's *Building construction* (9th ed.) were both revised in 1938. The 11th (1918) edition of Clowes and Coleman *Quantitative chemical analysis* appears, but the 14th (1938) edition is not mentioned. The edition given of Cotton's *Electrical technology* (which was last revised in 1943) is the 1924 edition, and the 1925 edition of Horner's *Pattern making* has not been replaced by the 1943 edition. On *Heating, etc.*, there must be more up-to-date works than Grierson's *Some modern methods of ventilation* (1916).

Among the general monthly and quarterly booklists and bulletins, Bethnal Green's stand foremost for cheer, good print and good paper. The annotations are generally informative, but occasionally the annotator grows transcendental and not very clear. I am sorry that there is no note to *Head-hunting in the Solomon Islands* when the head-hunting is artistic not utilitarian. Joad as "our radio philosopher" is put in his place, though his amazing gambols in one of the Sunday rags are thus ignored. Hornsey's *Books of the month* gives a very good selection in cheerful red print on wretched paper. Tottenham's lists have a great friendliness and always begin with news of the staff. These lists are a pleasure to handle, being on good firm paper of pleasant colour. With Islington's footnotes I have a standing grievance for, like Southport's, they can only be described as "squitting" in size. Still, the Islington bulletins are of a good standard, and the latest gives a most helpful list of *Books for mothers*. Loughborough and Southport annotate their fiction, and Loughborough quotes at the beginning of each section of the subject list. The "quote" for Science "Science advances with gigantic strides, but we are naught enriched in love and meekness" must have been a grand find in the O.D. of Q., but it is discouraging to the aspiring scientist; and I can see great scope for other Victorian poets with backhanders like

"That men with knowledge merely played

"I told thee . . ."

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The Latest Novelties

F. J. Gosling

I SUBMIT that in the consideration of post-war plans for the Public Library service the old, vexed question of the supply of "popular" fiction assumes, though few seem to recognise the fact, a special importance. That the subject should be so constantly shirked, or shelved after a sporadic outburst of disagreement, is deplorable. Worse, it is shortsighted in the extreme. Surely we, as Librarians, should be setting up standards for post-war reconstruction as high and as definite as those sponsored by, say, our architectural and town planning colleagues. The formulation of a clear cut policy on this particular matter derives a special urgency from the fact that, whether right or wrong, the removal of "popular" fiction from our shelves would radically affect the planning of new library buildings and the reconstruction of existing ones. It would, roughly speaking, make possible, with no increase in expenditure, the provision of better reference, non-fiction and "good" fiction stocks, less crowding of books and borrowers, and a far better readers' advisory service. Planning would be vitally affected in that greater floor-space could be given to reference and junior departments and to staff accommodation. Hence it is apparent that the whole lay-out of a library would be changed and it is obviously better that the ground plan should be decided before building, or rebuilding begins than that costly and only partially successful alterations should be embarked upon at a later date.

Before discussing the matter further it seems desirable to define more precisely the type of fiction meant. In the first place, to avoid the quite unjustifiable implication that whatever is popular is of low standard, I propose henceforward to use the term "trivial fiction." By that expression is meant all those novels which cannot be said to contribute, however modestly, to literature. Chiefly, though I have in mind those mass-produced novels of love, crime, detection, adventure (including particularly the wild-western variety) and humour, the popularity of which, with their stereotyped plots and complete lack of literary merit as also of any time realism of either character or setting, forms one of the most depressing comments on our present civilisation and its education system. They have indeed a childishness of style which, apart from any other consideration, would ensure their rejection by any good present-day children's librarian. Which fact, in parenthesis, may offer the chief hope that the next generation may demand a higher general standard of fiction and so doom to a slow but certain death the trivial fiction which so many of their parents favour.

While other novels, and all non-fiction are subjected by all librarians to a sifting process based on certain standards of literary merit, the mass purchase and issue of the trivial fiction specified above is defended as a democratic bowing to popular taste. It seems pertinent however to ask whether its retention and continual replacement, whatever the original motive for its inclusion, is not due in some cases at least, chiefly to fear of the big fall in issues which would result from its ejection from any library's shelves. It is therefore essential that we should all examine our personal motives and reactions to be sure that we are not being swayed by self-interest. It may be only human nature to fear that a fall in issues would lead to reductions in staffs and salaries but it is far from certain that such would be the case. The increase which we all hope to see in the trained staff available to assist all serious library users together with the elimination of the semi or totally unskilled work now expended on trivial

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fiction, should raise the general status of the profession, rather than have any lowering effect on either prestige or remuneration.

To those whose defence of trivial fiction in public libraries is truly based on the democratic principle of letting those who pay the piper call the tune I would point out that this rule is not adhered to in other public services, nor expected to be. It seems to be an accepted qualification of democratic rule that the detailed administration of such services should not be precisely according to the general wish but rather according to the disinterested judgment of the professional and technical officers who manage them. In a hospital ward for example we usually find many windows wide open, even in circumstances such that a majority of the patients would prefer them closed. But in such cases we take it as a matter of course that the service in question should be administered according to the highest standards laid down by the profession concerned. To take another example more closely allied to our own calling, we may well consider the case of corporation art galleries, if popular preference is to be the deciding factor in such matters they might well commission appropriate artists to furnish a constantly renewed series of strip cartoons to be displayed on their walls since these are undoubtedly the most popular form of graphic art to-day. Then would our art galleries be as full as our public libraries and curators could boast of their admission statistics as proudly as we librarians parade our "issues." But, strangely enough, art curators and their committees take a much higher view of their vocation and, ignoring admission statistics, maintain a definitely high standard of selection, even when they are also the librarian and library committee. In these cases no inconsistency is apparently seen in their observing a Jekyll-and-Hyde difference of attitude towards their two charges.

I would also point out to the defenders of trivial fiction that there is no question of depriving its adherents of it altogether in view of the present plethora of "tuppenny" libraries, which render it as accessible to all as are the other forms of light amusement such as the cinema (though this is far from providing *only* light entertainment), the music hall or the greyhound track. And no one to the present writer's knowledge has yet demanded that these should be provided out of public funds.

So I would say that the library profession should refuse to countenance the provision of trivial fiction in public libraries with as much indignation as the R.I.B.A. would voice if asked to sponsor a scheme for jerry-built housing. And in conclusion I would appeal to those altruistic librarians who remain in the wartime library service, and particularly those who are members of the profession's ruling councils and consultative committees, to do all in their power to bring this issue to the fore and to secure a courageous statement of professional policy upon it. If such action fails, or is not attempted, one can only hope for more worthy councils to prevail when the youth of the profession returns "from the wars" but it were much preferable that the question be faced, as it should be, before post-war policy begins to be translated into brick and stone.



On the Editor's Table

HORTON, MARION, Compiler. *A.L.A. Catalog, 1937-1941: an annotated list of approximately 4,000 titles.* A.L.A. (Woolston), 1943. \$6.00.

The latest five yearly instalment of the *A.L.A. Catalog*, generally recognised as an authoritative work, is welcome as a selection of the vast output of the American publishers, suitable for a general library. The compiler, in the preface, makes it

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clear that "no listing in this catalog can be considered as an official pronouncement of the American Library Association."

Let it be said at once that the bulk of the material here listed is admirably selected and annotated. As far as the book is a selection of *American* books it will be of great value to us in England. It is on more general lines that I would question the omissions, many of them rather obvious ones. Far be it from me to suggest that a semi-official list like this should be controversial, but the omissions in some sections seem to indicate that the "safe" book has generally been chosen rather than any work that might provoke controversy; while the choice seems in some sections to indicate the turning of a conveniently blind eye on recent political developments.

To take the fiction section first. Surely a list of American fiction from 1937-41 should include the names of John Dos Passos, William Faulkner, John O'Hara, or Jerome Weidman? I searched in vain for such books as *Adventures of a young man*, *The Wild palms*, *Hope of heaven* or *What's in it for me*? It seems strange to find these writers excluded when eminent best sellers such as Susan Ertz or Clarence Buddington Kelland are listed. Younger writers such as Meyer Levin, Irwin Shaw, Frederick Prokosch, or Carson McCullers—all of whom have made distinguished contributions to American literature during these years—are all omitted. In English and French fiction, there are similar omissions. We find Philip Gibbs, but not Grahame Greene whose *Power and the glory* (*The Labyrinthine ways*) was hailed by both British and American critics as one of the most notable novels of the last few years. There are many translations included, but Romain's *Men of goodwill*, though listed in the previous *A.L.A. catalog*, is not represented in its later volumes. And what excuse can there be for the omission of R. M. du Gard's magnificent *Summer 1914* or Henri de Montherlant who, though he may be a "collaborator," is no mean novelist? Finally (whether it's fiction or not) where is *Finnegan's Wake*?

In other sections we find the same puzzling choices and omissions. Under *Jazz* the compiler includes Paul Whiteman's *How to be a Band leader*—but not Wilder Hobson's *American jazz music*, the best study of the subject; under *Dancing* we find two books on tap dancing and one on ballroom dancing. Incredibly, there is no entry under *Ballet*, although books by Lifar, Kirstein, Anthony and Haskell were published during 1937-41. Even the indispensable Beaumont's *Complete book of ballets* is missing. Only one of the fine series of monographs on art published by the New York Museum of Modern Art is listed. If *Bauhaus* and *Fantastic art*, *Dada*, *surrealism* are not "safe," at least *Art in our time* might have been included.

The poetry and drama section has the same curious faults. W. H. Auden's *Another time* (1940), *New Year letter* (1941), George Baker's *Selected poems* (1941), Dylan Thomas's *The World I breathe* (1939), W. B. Yeats' *Last poems and plays* (1938): all are missing. And might not the compiler have ventured across the border to Canada to find the Ryerson Press, who published Eliot's *Burnt Norton* and *East Coker*? Frederick Prokosch, one of the most interesting of American poets, is another absentee. English poetry is represented by some representative names, but why Eileen Duggan or Alfred Noyes? And under dramatic criticism, we lament the absence of that ebullient critic, George Jean Nathan.

An obvious omission under *Motion pictures* is Leo Rosten's *Hollywood: the movie makers*, surely the most interesting and complete work on the subject ever published.

In the 900 section there is much that is good, but many gaps to be filled. Eugene

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Lyon's anti-Russian books *Assignment in Utopia* and *Stalin* (if they must be included) should have been balanced by Hewlett Johnson's *Socialist sixth of the world* and Duranty's *Kremlin and people*. In the same way Spain might have been represented by Koestler's *Spanish Testament* or Elliott Paul's *Life and death of a Spanish town*, Czecho Slovakia by Gedye's *Fallen bastions (Betrayal in Central Europe)*, France by Elliott Paul's *A Narrow street (The Last time I saw Paris)*, and Finland, of course, is well covered by Leland Stowe, Hudson Strode, Herbert Elliston, who express the sentimental view of that country still rife in America.

Perhaps many of the above gaps are caused by the fact that the *A.L.A. catalog* only sets out to be a basic collection for popular libraries. But to my mind "basic" implies "best," and the selections of the compiler seem to be well in the rear of American librarians as a whole, for their book selection is as a rule adventurous and representative.

Penguin Modern Painters. DUNCAN GRANT. PAUL NASH. GRAHAM SUTHERLAND. HENRY MOORE. Penguin Books 2s. 6d. each.

It does credit to the optimism and courage of Mr. Allen Lane that these four books, the first of a new series, should appear in wartime. The general editorship of the books has been undertaken by Sir Kenneth Clark, and the introductory essays have been written by critics in sympathy with the aims of each artist: Duncan Grant by Raymond Mortimer, Paul Nash by Herbert Read, Graham Sutherland by Edward Sackville West, Henry Moore by Geoffrey Grigson. Each volume consists of an essay of 16 pages, 16 coloured and 16 monochrome illustrations. The paper is good, the format impeccable, the four coloured illustrations of a very high standard. These books, representing a valuable addition to the library of art books, should be in every public library.



Correspondence Courses

Courses in all sections are arranged each season to run from April to May of the following year, and from November to December of the following year.

Students wishing to enter for any course must obtain an application form and send it, together with the appropriate fee, to Mrs. S. W. Martin, Carnegie Library, Herne Hill Road, London, S.E.24. Applications must reach the above before 20th March and 20th October for the April and November courses respectively. After these dates no applications will be considered.

For full particulars of subjects and fees, see the *Library Association Year Book*.

In addition to the full courses, special Revision Courses in the Intermediate Section only are organised to commence in March and September and to finish in time for the following examinations. These Revision Courses are intended only for students who have previously sat for the respective part, or parts, of the Intermediate Examination of the Library Association, and in no circumstances will any other application be considered.

Applications for these short courses must reach Mrs. S. W. Martin before 20th February and 20th August for the March and September courses respectively.

The Library Assistant

Association of Assistant Librarians (Section of the Library Association)

Forty-Eighth Annual Report covering the period January-December, 1943

Membership.—The membership at 31st December, 1943, was 3,206—a net decrease of 252. This decrease is mainly due to the Library Association's removal from membership of all defaulting members, including those in the Forces. The distribution of members was as follows :—

	Full L.A.	Transitional	Total
Honorary Fellows	20	—	20
Central Association	316	—	316
Divisions :			
Devon and Cornwall	64	—	64
Eastern	59	—	59
East Midlands	209	1	210
Greater London	780	13	793
Kent	128	—	128
Midland	330	—	330
North-Eastern	210	23	233
North-Western :			
Bolton and District	236	4	240
Liverpool and District	181	6	187
South-Eastern	55	1	56
South Wales	128	—	128
Wessex	107	—	107
Yorkshire	309	26	335
	3,132	74	3,206

Finance.—The financial position of the Association continues to be satisfactory. The balance in the General Account remains at £325, the maximum allowed under the agreement made with the Library Association in 1939, according to which any balances in excess of this amount are refunded. The amount refunded in 1943 was £40 9s. 5d., the lowest since the agreement was made, for which the reduction in the amount of capitation due from the Library Association from £924 6s. 0d. in 1942 to £736 16s. 0d. was chiefly responsible. This reduction was caused by the removal of defaulting members (including those in the Forces) from membership. This loss of income was offset to some extent by a reduction in the cost of *The Library Assistant*, as it became necessary, owing to paper restrictions, to issue it bi-monthly as from January, 1943. Income from sales and advertisements was, however, reduced because of the adjustment of the subscription and advertising rates. Members will be pleased to learn that at least some of the cigarettes which are being sent to members who are prisoners of war are getting through, as acknowledgments have been received.

The Library Assistant

The Correspondence Courses Balance is now £114 19s. 0d. Although it has never been the policy of the Association to make a profit on the Courses, it is felt that a fairly large balance should be maintained for the time being so as to provide the means for a thorough overhaul of the Courses after the war.

Benevolent Fund.—The assets continue to grow, in the absence of any grants being made. The Council again reminds Divisional Committees and individual members of the existence of the Fund, and asks that any necessitous cases should be brought to its notice at once.

Correspondence Courses.—525 students entered for the ordinary courses during 1943, this being an increase of 4 on the previous year. 31 of these courses have gone to Service members, an increase of 9, and it should be noted that the Library Association has borne part of the cost for all Service students. 71 revision courses have also been arranged, this being a decrease of 10 from last year.

The following tutors have had to resign during the year :—Mr. V. H. Woods (Elementary), Dr. A. J. Walford (Intermediate, Part 1), Miss M. James and Mr. A. Strain (Intermediate, Part 2). The Council would like to thank these and all tutors who have continued this most important but exhausting work under war-time difficulties. Two new tutors have been accepted during the year :—Miss D. A. Clarke, who is carrying on with Mr. E. V. Corbett's Course in the Elementary Section as Mr. Corbett is now serving overseas ; and Mr. C. S. Minto, to whom the Council is particularly grateful for having taken on the Intermediate, Part 2 section, at very short notice when Mr. Strain resigned owing to eye trouble.

The Council would like to record its appreciation of the efficient manner in which Mrs. S. W. Martin has carried on the organisation of the courses during Mr. S. W. Martin's absence with H.M. Forces.

The sale of A.A.L. publications during 1943 amounted to £28 16s. 11d., an increase of £16 11s. 9d. on the previous year.

Library.—The number of books issued in 1943 was 2,252, being an increase of 92 on the issue of 1942. A few more members are using the Library, the number being 182 as against 176. 60 volumes have been added to the stock during the year but 40 of these were necessary duplicates. Donations were received from Mrs. Springett and Miss Edmonston, to whom the Council expresses gratitude.

Once again the Council wishes to record its gratitude to Mr. L. J. Packington, Chief Librarian of Lambeth, for continuing to allow the collection to be housed at the Carnegie Library, Herne Hill Road, S.E.24, and to Miss B. F. Nevard for the efficient way in which she has carried out the duties of Hon. Librarian.

Divisions.—Space does not permit of the inclusion of full Divisional Reports, but these may be obtained from Divisional Secretaries. In all Divisions the membership figure is down owing to the Library Association's action in removing from the membership roll all those whose subscriptions were unpaid, including Service members.

Divisional activity, however, has increased during the year. Every Division has held at least one meeting, most three or four, and one five. Meetings at the beginning of the year were all concerned with the McColvin Report and several later on with the Library Association's Post War Proposals. Other topics discussed include Broadcasting (Greater London), Censorship (East Midland), Russian literature (South-Eastern), Writer's craft and Town planning (Wessex), and Libraries and Education (Yorkshire). We note also tours of Libraries, rambles and even a "Brains Trust" session, while

(Continued on page 32) 29

Statement of Income

		GENERAL	
<i>Income</i>		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward from 1942		325	0 0
„ Subscriptions		19	0 0
„ Capitation Grant		736	16 0
„ Sale of <i>The Library Assistant</i>		37	19 7
„ Advertisements		47	11 10
„ Sale of A.A.L. Publications		11	16 4
		853	3 9

£1,178 3 9

		CORRESPONDENCE	
<i>Income</i>		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward from 1942		39	11 5
„ Students' Fees		878	4 6
„ Balance of Students' Fees for Members in the Forces paid by the L.A.		20	3 6
		898	8 0

£937 19 5

		BENEVOLENT	
<i>Income</i>		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward from 1942		366	19 4½
„ Interest on Post Office Savings Bank Account		1	5 0
„ Appreciation in value of National Savings Certificates, 1st January to 31st December, 1943		9	1 5
		£377	5 9½

BENEVOLENT

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

		<i>Assets</i>	
		£	s. d.
To National Savings Certificates : Value on 31st December, 1943		322	14 1½
„ Post Office Savings Bank		54	11 8
		£377	5 9½

All the above statements audited and found correct :

(Signed) L. A. WRAY }
G. E. TROWSDALE } *Honorary Auditors.*

and Expenditure, 1943

ACCOUNT

	<i>Expenditure</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Printing <i>The Library Assistant</i>		356 9 6	
" Distributing <i>The Library Assistant</i>		46 7 7	
" Refund of Excess Subscriptions to <i>The Library Assistant</i>		9 3 6	
" Payment to Divisions		158 2 9	
" Refund of Capitation to the L.A.		45 9 5	
" Councillors' Expenses		88 11 10	
" Library		26 5 5	
" Stationery and Printing		21 9 9	
" Postages		16 10 0	
" Clerical Assistance for Honorary Officers		47 6 0	
" Cigarettes for Prisoners of War		29 8 6	
" Miscellaneous		7 19 6	
			853 3 9
Balance carried forward to 1944			325 0 0

£1,178 3 9

COURSES ACCOUNT

	<i>Expenditure</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Tutors' Fees		777 16 0	
" Refund of Course Fee		1 6 6	
" Stationery and Printing		3 2 11	
" Honorary Education Secretary : Clerical Assistance and Expenses		29 14 0	
" Postages		10 0 0	
" Insurances		1 1 0	
			823 0 5
Balance carried forward to 1944			114 19 0

£937 19 5

FUND ACCOUNT

	<i>Expenditure</i>	£ s. d.
By Balance carried forward to 1944		377 5 9½

£377 5 9½

FUND ACCOUNT

AS ON 31st DECEMBER, 1943

	<i>Liabilities</i>	£ s. d.
By Balance of Fund, 31st December, 1943		377 5 9½

£377 5 9½

J. T. GILLETT, *Hon. Treasurer.*

The Library Assistant

most Divisions are continuing educational activities for the benefit of students. The Council wishes to express its gratitude to all Divisional Officers and members of Committees, to all individuals and to all library authorities whose efforts throughout the year have contributed to the success of all these activities.

Publications.—No additions to the A.A.L. series have been made during the year. A new edition of *Sequel stories* is in active preparation and it is hoped to publish during 1944. *The Library Assistant* is now published bi-monthly. It is gratifying to find that men and women in the Forces continue to read the journal, and correspondence from most theatres of war has been published during the year.

Officers and Council.—The Officers of 1942 have all continued in office. The Council has met four times during the year. A memorandum on the McColvin Report was forwarded to the Library Association early in the year and A.A.L. Council representatives met the Planning Committee of the Library Association to discuss this. Almost all these A.A.L. suggestions were incorporated in the published pamphlet on the Post War Policy proposals of the Library Association Council. Discussion on this pamphlet and on the Library Association's Proposals for future professional training has occupied the Council during the latter part of the year.

The Future.—The President's message—The rewards of a wartime President of the Association are not many; he can be at best little more than a caretaker. But he has responsibilities, the main ones being to see that the house is kept tidy and that it is not burgled. I have tried to do that. The A.A.L. is ready to burst into active life again when the men and women for whom it exists return from other responsibilities. And in saying that, I fully recognise that most of the credit for that effort belongs to your wartime Secretary, Miss Exley, your Treasurer, J. T. Gillet, who succeeds me, and your Editor, W. B. Stevenson, who has now conjured something out of nothing for four years.

The A.A.L. is also as it was four years ago, an association to further the interests of and provide a focal point in speech, thought and print for the young librarian. My own association with the A.A.L. has been a long one—from the time when, as a young assistant of 21, I came from Yorkshire to address a meeting of the Central Division at Richmond. Later in that same year, I became a national councillor, and the first meeting of the Council I attended was an historic one. It was at that meeting that the Council decided to give financial aid to enable provincial members of the Council to attend, and out of that decision came the fully representative Council we have to-day, and which has continued to function through the war years. In the last 15 years, I have gained a great deal from the A.A.L. I only hope that my services as President have paid back a little of the debt.

Knowing what I have got from the A.A.L., I can give no better thought for the future than that the A.A.L. will retain and increase its influence and sacrifice none of its independence. In building the library structure of the future both wisdom and courage will be needed. If wisdom is the product of age and experience, I hope it will be remembered that courage is the prerogative of youth and determination.

On behalf of the Council,

FRANK M. GARDNER, *President.*

ELSIE M. EXLEY, *Hon. Secretary.*